

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NIS PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 1951

1. This report covers the third year of operations of the NIS Program. In many respects it was a year of disappointments and setbacks, but it was also a year of attainment and fundamental progress. By its end, the NIS Program was being firmly supported by the Intelligence Agencies and measures were underway which will provide a long-range, continuing development of basic intelligence. Among these were the establishment of permanent staffs in the contributing agencies, the augmentation of collection capabilities in the field for basic intelligence, and the general improvement in the effectiveness of inter-agency coordination. On this firm basis future progress of the NIS Program is assured.

2. At the beginning of the year, NIS production appeared to be in a very favorable position. Over 50 sections had been produced in the last month of Fiscal Year 1950. However, the Korean war caused almost total stoppage of NIS production by the Armed Forces Agencies and considerable reduction by State. This critical situation was brought to the attention of the Director of Central Intelligence who, with the concurrence of the SAC, transmitted a memorandum on 22 August 1950 to the Secretary of Defense which stated in part:

"The effect of such withdrawals of support, in an undertaking which is wholly dependent upon full collaborative joint effort for successful accomplishment, is practically to inactivate the NIS production program, in its entirety.

"If the vital basic intelligence requirements of the Government are to be met, continuous fiscal support and stability of personnel organization are imperative."

3. The Secretary of Defense on 16 October 1950 directed the Department of the Army to explore this problem with the other Services, and indicated the Services should attempt to make their contributions without adding to current budgetary or personnel quotas assigned for intelligence duties. The Services, however, found that additional funds and personnel would be required to meet their commitments under the NIS Program. The increased staffs were approved on 14 December 1950 by the Secretary of Defense who stated in his memorandum of the same date to the Director of Central Intelligence that the Department of Defense "recognizes the importance of maintaining the production of National Intelligence Surveys on a regular basis, undiminished by fluctuations in the world situation which result in heavy demands upon its intelligence agencies".

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4. The establishment of this principle is fundamental to a sound NIS Program. It will also operate to the advantage of the Intelligence Agencies in providing them with their basic intelligence needs on a continuing, long-range basis. The existence of an NIS on Korea would have greatly simplified the fulfillment of the spate of intelligence requirements arising out of the hostilities in that country. Its vital need in war further emphasizes the importance of the systematic collection, production, and maintenance of basic intelligence in time of peace. That is the essential purpose of the NIS Program.

5. Production goals for Fiscal Year 1951 were the equivalent of approximately 8 complete NIS. Actual production, on the other hand, was 270 sections, or about 4 equivalent NIS. Thus, roughly only 50% of commitments were met during the year. This low production is attributable mainly to the diversion of production effort arising out of the Korean war, to the difficulties in recruiting and training new staffs for NIS work, and to the general unbalancing of production throughout the NIS organization. While there was gradual improvement in the quality of contributions in most instances, there were still many inadequate contributions which required considerable revision to meet NIS requirements.

6. During Fiscal Year 1951, there were produced 14 NIS Preliminary Gazetteers totalling 148,000 geographic standard names. This exceeded the planned production rate by nearly 25%. The arrangements with the staff of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names is proceeding satisfactorily, and the IBM procedures for indexing and preparing material for publication have proved economical and efficient.

7. Base map requirements of all NIS contributors were generally met throughout the year. There were published during Fiscal Year 1951 a total of 18 NIS standard base maps and 14 page size maps. The NIS maps are being increasingly used for general intelligence purposes and are now being distributed to other government agencies as well.

8. Since the beginning of the NIS Program, there have been produced altogether the approximate equivalent of 12 complete NIS. In addition, there have been prepared base maps for 45 NIS Areas, and preliminary gazetteers for 42 NIS Areas, comprising about 425,000 standard geographic names. The production schedule for Fiscal Year 1952 calls for the additional production of approximately the equivalent of 10 complete NIS, base maps for 23 NIS Areas, and gazetteers for 12 NIS Areas. Provision is also being made for the initial preparation of the major portion of the

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9. The NIS Committee met 33 times during the year. Its proceedings were characterized by the consistent and exceptional degree of cooperation on the part of its members. Its major attainments include the complete revision of the NIS Standard Instructions, the development of permanent

staffs devoted principally to NIS work in the Armed Forces Agencies, and the marked improvement in the coordination and review aspects of NIS production. The Chairman in his capacity as NIS Coordinator has been afforded outstanding support and assistance by all members throughout the year.

10. The NIS Program is doing much to emphasize and strengthen the collection of basic intelligence and considerable progress was made during the year in developing effective collection procedures. All of the Intelligence Agencies require their field activities to review published elements of the NIS and to report necessary changes, additions, and corrections without delay. They also require their field activities to initiate collection of "gap" information indicated in the "Comments on Principal Sources". In the case of the Air Force, there is a further requirement for Air Attaches to write the first drafts of all NIS requirements for which the Air Force has responsibility.

11. In summary, the NIS Program has successfully passed through the most severe year of operations, and is now in a greatly strengthened position for the long haul ahead. The contributing agencies appear generally confident they can fully meet the scheduled commitments for Fiscal Year 1962, providing their staffs are recruited and maintained at authorized strengths, and further providing they are used primarily for NIS work. The temptation to divert them to fulfilling pressing departmental requirements is always strong, but any move in this direction can only result in emasculating the NIS Program. That is the important lesson to be learned from this year's operations.

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ANNEXES:

- I - NIS Coordination
- II - NIS Production
- III - NIS Review, Editing,
and Publication